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ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Tony Wood, Commissioner

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New National Board Certified Teachers Announced

LITTLE ROCK - The Arkansas Department of Education congratulates 214 Arkansas teachers who recently attained their National Board Certification.

The certification, issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, can take up to three years. Teachers who complete the certification have demonstrated their understanding of national, rigorous teaching standards and their ability to implement research-based educational practices.

Arkansas traditionally ranks among the top 10 states in the nation according to the number of new National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs). To date, 2,778 Arkansas teachers have achieved the certification.

Arkansas offers comprehensive support to selected teachers interested in pursuing National Board Certification. This includes fee support, a state candidate support program and three paid release days for teachers who have been chosen for the state support system.

Act 1803 of 2003 provides a \$5,000 annual bonus for up to 10 years to a teacher who becomes certified. Additionally, Arkansas teachers who are certified in the area compatible with their teaching assignment would be considered "highly qualified" in that content area under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

For more information about the program in Arkansas and to see a list of the state's newest NBCTs, go to <http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/human-resources-educator-effectiveness-and-licensure/office-of-educator-effectiveness/national-board-for-professional-teaching-standards>.

For more information about the National Board for Professional Standards, visit <http://www.nbpts.org>.

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